

PREVENTING UNAUTHORIZED DISTRIBUTION OF  
MEDIA CONTENT WITHIN A GLOBAL NETWORK

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ABSTRACT

10           One embodiment of the invention is a method for providing media content while preventing its  
unauthorized distribution. The method includes transmitting from a client to an administrative node a  
request for delivery of an instance of media content (IMC); determining which content source (CS) of a  
plurality of CSs to provide delivery of the IMC, provided the client is authorized to receive the IMC;  
transmitting to the client an access key and a location of the IMC; transmitting from the client to the CS a  
15           second request and the access key; in response to receiving the second request and the access key,  
transferring the IMC from the CS to the client; transmitting from the client to the administrative node an  
indicator indicating a successful transfer of the IMC; and generating a transaction applicable to the client  
and associated with the transfer of the IMC to the client.